Docket No. 034298-000124

Application No.: 10/007,204 Amdt. Dated April 23, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 25, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] In accordance with a further aspect of the invention, a system for determining a location of a blood vessel puncture for delivery of a hemostasis promoting material to the blood vessel puncture to facilitate hemostasis includes an introducer sheath having a lumen, a proximal end, and a distal end configured to be inserted into a blood vessel puncture, a hemostasis promoting material delivery system having a connector for forming a fluid tight connection with the proximal end of the introducer sheath, and a bleed back exhaust tube having a first end in fluid communication with the lumen of the introducer sheath and a second end positioned to deliver blood to an exterior of the system to provide a visual indication of the location of the distal end of the introducer sheath, wherein the bleed back exhaust tube has in an inner diameter of less than 2mm.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] The hydration chamber 12 is configured to receive a pledget of absorbable sponge material for hydration of the pledget and delivery of the pledget through the introducer sheath 10. A proximal end of the hydration chamber 12 includes a flange 36 or other connecting element for receiving the coupler 16. A distal end 34 of the hydration chamber 12 connects to the proximal hub 22 of the introducer sheath 10 12. The control tip 14 has an enlarged distal end 40 configured to be received in the puncture in the blood vessel and to control blood flow through the puncture in the blood vessel. The enlarged distal end 40 is connected to a smaller diameter control tip tube 42 which extends from the enlarged distal end through the distal end of the hydration chamber 12 and out a side of the hydration chamber 12 to a proximal end 44 of the control tip. The enlarged distal end 40 of the control tip performs the multiple functions of controlling blood flow through the blood vessel puncture, providing an indication of the position of the distal end of the introducer sheath, and guiding the hemostasis promoting material delivery system over a guidewire.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

[0062] FIGS. 4-6 illustrate an alternative embodiment of a system for delivering hemostasis promoting material to a blood vessel puncture site including another option for observing bleed back. FIG. 4 illustrates an introducer sheath 110, a hydration chamber 112, a control tip 114, a coupler 116, and a syringe 118. According to this embodiment, a vent tube 126 extends from a side of a distal end of the hydration chamber 112. The vent tube 126 may be provided with a vent cap 128 for manually opening and closing the vent tube 126. Alternatively, the vent tube closure system illustrated in FIG. 3B may be used. In the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 4-6, the introducer sheath 110 may be any of those introducer sheaths which are currently used and may be connectable to the hydration chamber 112 by a lure lock connection as shown or by a coupler 16 or other coupling mechanisms as necessary. As shown most clearly in the cross sectional view of FIG. 6, the hydration chamber 112 includes a large inner diameter at a proximal

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end 132 and a smaller inner diameter distal end 134. The vent tube 126 is provided along the smaller inner diameter distal end 134 of the hydration chamber 112 distally of a tapered portion 136 of the hydration chamber. The smaller inner diameter distal end 134 may be substantially the same as the inner diameter of the introducer sheath. In this embodiment, the hydrated sponge should have a distal end which is positioned just proximally of the vent tube inlet so that the sponge does not block the inlet of the vent tube restricting the bleed back pathway. The system of FIGS. 4-6 provides the advantage that the hydration chamber 112 and control tip 114 may be used with any of the known introducer sheaths 110 which may be in use in any particular intravascular procedure.